

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The action by the Examiner of this application, together with the cited references, has been given careful consideration. Following such consideration, claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 have been amended to define more clearly the patentable invention applicants believe is disclosed herein. Moreover, claims 3 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 4-12 and 16-21 are unchanged by the present amendment paper. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the claims in their present form, together with the following comments, and allow the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. US2004/0128099 to Summers et al., and has rejected claims 13 and 19-21 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,965,819 to Piety et al. In addition, claim 14 has been rejected as being obvious in view of the combined teachings of Piety et al. and Summers et al. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 5-8, 10-12 and 15-18 recite allowable subject matter, and thus would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

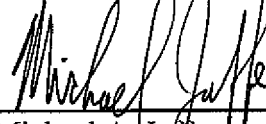
In an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has now been amended to incorporate limitations from dependent claim 3 (now cancelled). Similarly, independent claim 13 has now been amended to incorporate limitations from dependent claim 15 (now cancelled).

Since the Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 3 and 15 recite allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 13 are now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 2 and 4-12 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 14 and 16-21 depend from independent claim 13. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are also now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes there are any further matters that need to be discussed in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0537, referencing our Docket No. ST8777US.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Jaffe
Registration No. 36,326

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Kusner & Jaffe
Highland Place -- Suite 310
6151 Wilson Mills Road
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143
(440) 684-1090 (phone)
(440) 684-1095 (fax)

MAJ/lc